

Appl. No. 10/057,929
Amendment dated September 29, 2003
Reply to Office Action of April 29, 2003

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

112 1. (currently amended): In a machine for making filters for attachment to smokers' products, a mobile transfer device for introduction of filter material for tobacco smoke into sections of wrapping material; guide means for said transfer device; and ~~compensating~~ means between said transfer device and said guide means for compensating for departure of quantities of filter material from predetermined quantities.

2. (original): The structure of claim 1, wherein said guide means comprises a groove for a portion of one of said transfer device and said compensating means.

3. (original): The structure of claim 2, wherein said compensating means includes an elastic material.

4. (original): The structure of claim 2, wherein said transfer device includes at least one mobile plunger.

5. (original): The structure of claim 4, wherein said compensating means includes a tubular guide for said at least one plunger.

6. (original): The structure of claim 4, further comprising means for limiting the extent of movability of said plunger.

7. (original): The structure of claim 1, wherein said compensating means comprises at least one spring.

8. (original): The structure of claim 1, wherein said transfer device comprises at least one

-2-

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Appl. No. 10/057,929
Amendment dated September 29, 2003
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mobile plunger and a motor for moving said plunger.

9. (original): The structure of claim 8, wherein said motor is a stepping motor.

10. (original): The structure of claim 1, wherein said transfer device comprises at least one mobile plunger and means for monitoring the extent of movability of said plunger.

11. (original): The structure of claim 10, wherein said monitoring means is selected from the group consisting of power sensors, contact sensors and distance sensors.

12. (original): The structure of claim 1, wherein said compensating means includes elastic synthetic plastic material.

13. (original): The structure of claim 12, wherein said elastic material is a foam.

14. (original): The structure of claim 12, wherein at least one of said transfer device and said guide means has at least one chamber for said elastic material.

15. (withdrawn): In a machine for making filters for attachment to smokers' products, the combination of a mobile device for introduction of filter material for tobacco smoke into at least one section of a wrapping material; and a control element constituting a means for facilitating only indirect movements of said device.

16. (withdrawn): The combination of claim 15, further comprising a compensating element between said mobile device and said control element.

17. (withdrawn): A machine for making filters for smoke generated by products of the

Appl. No. 10/057,929
Amendment dated September 29, 2003
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tobacco processing industry, comprising at least one mobile transfer device for the introduction of quantities of tobacco smoke filtering material into tubular receptacles; guide means for said transfer device; and means for compensating for departures of quantities of filter material from predetermined quantities.

18. (withdrawn): In a machine for making composite filter plugs for attachment to rod-shaped smokers' products, the combination of:

means for advancing a succession of tubular receptacles for filter material for tobacco smoke in a predetermined direction along a predetermined path;

adjustable means for introducing discrete quantities of filter material into successive receptacles in said path;

means for monitoring said quantities of filter material; and

means for adjusting said introducing means when the monitored quantities depart from a predetermined value.

19. (withdrawn): The combination of claim 18, wherein said introducing means is movable relative to successive receptacles in a predetermined portion of said path and the extent of movement of said introducing means is indicative of the quantity of filter material introduced into the receptacle then located in said portion of said path, said monitoring means including means for ascertaining the extent of movement of said introducing means.

20. (withdrawn): The combination of claim 18, further comprising means for removing from said path those receptacles wherein the quantity of filter material in the receptacle occupying said portion of said path causes the introducing means to move through a distance outside of a predetermined range of distances.